

Meth in Minnesota: Problem, Program, Legislative Support, Future Projects



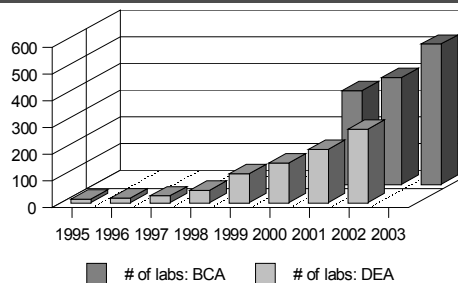
The Problem

- Meth use and manufacture have been:
 - present for decades at low levels
 - problematic in some counties for several years (2000-2001)
 - epidemic in a few counties for 1-3 years
 - now present in all 87 counties with dramatic change in many counties over 6-12 month period in the past 1-2 years

Lab and Drug Type and Number

- Reporting is poor
 - DEA EPIC reports - approx. 2/3 of total
- No. known labs for 2003: from 425 to 520 in past month, due to MDH survey.
- Meth in MN: 80 percent imported
- Remaining 20 percent:
 - 75-90 percent anhydrous method
 - balance (increasing slowly) Red P.

MN Meth Lab Seizures



A Few Minnesota Stats

- Purity:
 - Imports testing at 2-10 %
 - MN Meth testing at 80-95 %
 - ICE: 97 to 99+ % pure
- Price: \$800-2000/oz; \$3000 for ice
- Crime:
 - 1967, 47 felons; 2002, 460 felons
 - 1st 1/4 2003: 90 % all drug investigations
 - Many counties, meth is 75-90% all crime

A Few More Minnesota Stats

- **Children:**
 - Excluding 2 largest counties, 82 percent increase out-of-family placements for reason of drug abuse, from 2000-2002
- **Costs:**
 - Pine Co.: 980K/yr for all agencies
 - Martin 560K/yr for all agencies
 - Olmsted Co.: \$200 per child – no lab; \$1500 per child – full labs



January 2001

- **Program:**
 - MDH had produced one meth brochure
 - Bureau Criminal Apprehension training Clan Lab Responders
 - Various agencies getting requests for information
- **Policy:** No statewide laws acceptable; lack of understanding about potential.

The Program 2001-Present

- **Minnesota Multi-Agency Clan Lab Taskforce**
 - U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
 - MN Depts. Agriculture, Health (MDH), Human Services, Natural Resources, Transportation
 - MN Department of Public Safety: Div. of Emergency Management, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, State Fire Marshall Division
 - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)
 - MN Local Public Health Association
 - MN Community Health Services

Methamphetamine Response Categories:

- Law Enforcement
- Awareness and Education
- Child Protection
- Remediation and Removal
- Prevention / Treatment

MDH Program Foundations

- State of Washington Cleanup Guidance
- California Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Program: Medical Evaluation & Treatment
- MN BCA First Responder Guidance
- Arizona Tri-University group findings
- Revised Brownfields definition
- Advice from many Minnesota agencies, other scientists, agencies, institutions.

Tri-University Meth Project

Univ. AZ, AZ State, Northern AZ University

Research Questions:

- What is the risk and health impact to children, adults, and law enforcement personnel from exposure to the manufacture of meth in residential units ... ?
- What is the risk and health impact to children, adults, and law enforcement personnel from exposure to the residual contamination left behind from the manufacture of meth ... ?

Tri-University Meth Project

Univ. AZ, AZ State, Northern AZ University

Results:

- Lit Review of Health Effects from Exposure to Meth Labs and Hazardous Chemicals in Illicit Meth Laboratories
- Recommendation of Remediation, Work Practices and Cleanup Levels
- Recommendation of Work Practices to Maintain Officer Safety
- Standards for Certification of Drug Laboratory Remediation Specialist

EPA Brownfields Definition:

3.3.1 Contamination by Controlled Substance

- Sites eligible for funding include ...residential property ... contaminated by a controlled substance.
- ...sites ... may include private residences, formerly used for the manufacture and/or distribution of methamphetamine or other illegal drugs where there is a presence or potential presence of controlled substances or pollutants, contaminants, or hazardous substances

Law Enforcement

• Additional tasks:

- More training for first responder, community, other agencies, schools
- Improved communication, collaboration with health, environment, human service...
- Share resources, referrals, training, lobbying and other tasks
- Increased awareness of health and safety issues



Awareness and Education

• MDH and Local Activities:

- MDH: database and website
- MDH and Local:
 - 9/2002 Meth Manual
 - protocols and procedures
 - awareness, education, training
 - lobbying and legislation
 - telephone consults
- Local: media and retail efforts

Training for All MN Counties

MDH:

- METH Health Issues
- Drugs and Labs
- Child Endangerment
- Minnesota Strategy
- Citizen Response
- Staff Safety
- Abandoned Waste

BCA:

- Meth and other drug awareness-level training
- Clan lab officer training and refresher courses

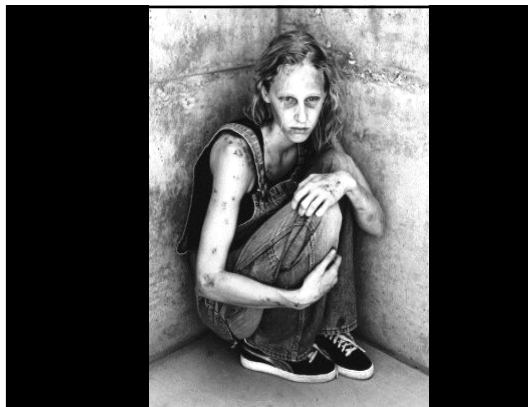
Refer general questions to the website:

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/meth



Child Protection

- Olmsted County/Mayo Clinic adaptation of California DEC Child Protocols
- MDH child recommendations
- Prevention
- Legislation
- Cleanup
- Training



Evaluation of Meth Kids

Olmsted County, Mayo Clinic, California Drug Endangered Children's Project

Recommendations:

- On-site assessment after venting
- Cautious handling and transfer of children and belongings
- All children removed from labs and evaluated at a medical facility
- Children not returned pending evaluation, investigation and decontamination of the residence
 - placement within 72 hours
- Children followed after closure

Cleanup: (Removal and Remediation)



Clean-Up, in the Absence of Statewide Laws ...

Minnesota Statute 145A:

- "Public health nuisance means any activity or failure to act that adversely affects the public health."
- "If a threat to the public health ... is found on any property, the local board of health or its agent shall order the owner or occupant of the property to remove or abate the threat ..."

MDH: Limited Intervention

- MDH authority restricted to:
 - housing (if housing code in place)
 - restaurants
 - licensed facilities:
 - motels, hotels, restaurants, campgrounds, mobile home parks

Cleanup Standards and Advice

- Residential:
 - MDH: Indoor cleanup guidance
- Soil, Air and Water:
 - MPCA: outdoor standards and protocols
- Hazardous Waste
 - MNDot and Ag: guidance, training and referral for anhydrous, roadway, transport issues

Current Cleanup Practices: Outdoors

- MPCA will assess; then provide outdoor cleanup based on:
 - chemicals, duration, potential for harm...
- Other possible actors:
 - DNR/MnDOT: state property, parks, roads
 - local authorities: municipal property, water, housing, etc.

Current Cleanup Practices: Indoors

Levels of Action:

- Ordinance or existing law requires professional cleanup and final testing
- Local authority requires cleanup – may or may not follow up on order
- Law enforcement posts property – property rarely cleaned

Cleanup Recommendations

- Ventilate
- Discard permeable materials
- Scrub walls, floors, ceilings
- Clean ventilation system
- Inspect / clean plumbing
- Ventilate
- (Seal w/ oil-based coating)
- Ventilate

Measures of Cleanup Success

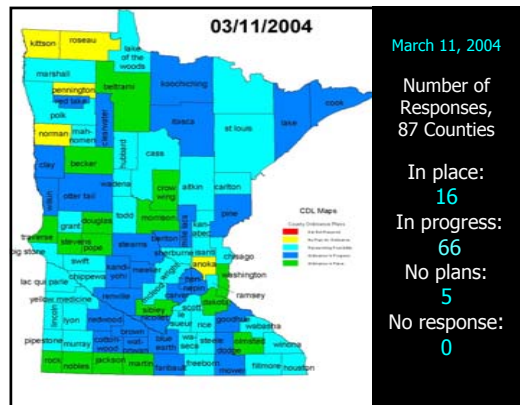
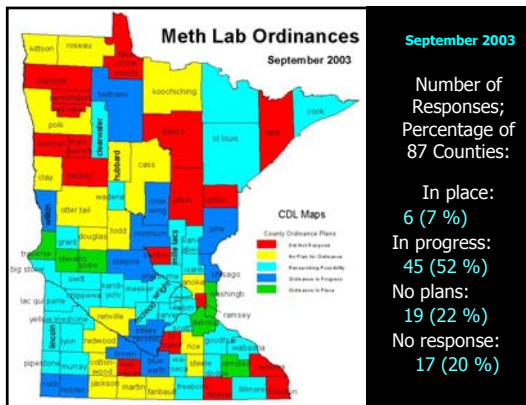
- Completion of MDH cleanup protocol
- Acids/bases neutralized
- VOCs (surrogate) < 1 ppm
- Meth wipes (surrogate) .. < 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}_2$
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- Mercury vapor analysis .. 0.3 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}_3$
- Lead wipes 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}_2$



Comprehensive Local Response

Model local response:

- Taskforce involving all local agencies
- Education and awareness efforts (including media, retail, business...)
- Ordinance and/or other protocols in place
- Child protection protocols in place
- Staff training and equipment provided
- Defined roles and responsibilities



Ordinance Provisions

- Protects staff and public health
- Defines the problem by establishing lab sites as Public Health Nuisance
- Accelerates clean-up
- Establishes clear roles and responsibilities for lab, sites, children, agencies ...
- Enhances communication and cooperation
- Provides financial relief through tax assessment

Legislative Support

September 2003 to Present:

- Bill drafted by law enforcement
- "Leg Group" included health, human service, law enforcement, judiciary, environment, retailers, A.G., DEA, agriculture, county attys. ... others
- Bill intended to support and not supplant ongoing county efforts,

Rosen/Gunther Draft Meth Bill

Rosen/Gunther Bill Addresses:

- Endangerment of children and vulnerable adults
 - Criminal penalties
 - Reporting lab kids to child protection
 - Protective custody
- Restriction of Meth precursor sales
 - No more than 3 packages
 - No sales to person under age 18
 - Precursors behind the counter, locked, or tagged
- Meth awareness and education fund

Rosen/Gunther Draft Bill - 2

- Removal and remediation activities
 - Mandatory reporting of labs, dumps, fires...
 - Mandatory cleanup before reoccupation
 - Notifications on title or deed
 - Restitution to public entities for response (oh, well)
- Cleanup revolving fund for cities and counties with meth ordinances when owner cannot pay
- Tougher penalties for possession of lab chemicals/equipment with intent to cook
- Modifications to anhydrous use, theft laws

Still Needed ...

- Staff education, training and equipment
- Funding for overtime, extra services
- Broader public awareness, education and prevention at state and local levels
- More/better meth-specific treatment
- Research on cleanup, addiction, health...
- And all the things I didn't think of



National Jewish Research Center Methamphetamine Research

- 16 suspected labs AFTER seizure
- labs considered small; limited chemicals present
- excessive levels of meth found throughout
- meth detected in ten out of fourteen labs tested
- Meth found on in levels up to 10,000 times over the recommended amount.
- methamphetamine, ephedrine, and pseudoephedrine detected on appliances, counters, vents, and furniture in extreme amounts



"Sooner or later,
Methamphetamine
Means Death ...
The death that comes
from violence or critical illness,
the death of future promise
for too many young people,
and the death of hope
for their families.
Methamphetamine
carries a prognosis
that is worse
than many cancers."

*Dr. Micheal Sise, MD
Mercy Hospital*

Future Plans and Projects

- Guidance modification w/ MPCA
- Contractor training course w/ U. of MN
- Conference for county staff with new ordinances
- In light of Natl. Jewish Research Center findings, additional research on effects in children, cleanup efficacy, other lab issues
- Treatment ... more, better, affordable
- Funds seeking
- More of the same

MDH Meth Lab Program

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